TL 4936

Urgent Action Alert

to: Human Rights and solidarity groups

from: José Ramos-Horta

re: Protest UN "Human Rights" seminar in Jakarta!

date: December 17, 1992

The UN Human Rights Center in Geneva has decided to accept Indonesia's outrageous invitation to host an Asia-Pacific human rights workshop in Jakarta on January 26-28, 1993!

Invitations have already been sent to governments and human rights experts.

I am appealing to every solidarity group and every non-governmental organization around the world to launch a campaign of protest and a denunciation of this decision by the United Nations.

Such a seminar was to have been held in December 1991, but it was delayed because of the November massacre in Dili. The human rights situation in East Timor and Indonesia has not improved.

I make a special appeal to NGO's of the Asia-Pacific region, including Indonesians, to oppose this bizarre gathering which makes a mockery of human rights in Indonesia and in East Timor.

Ask the U.N. Human Rights Center in Geneva if they are planning to hold human rights seminars in Yangon (Rangoon), Myanmar (Burma), Tienanmen Square, Guatemala City, and Zagreb (Serbia).

Protest notes must be in the strongest possible language. Human rights experts who accept the invitation to Jakarta must also be denounced publicly.

Please fax letters of protest immediately to:

Center for Human Rights, United Nations Office at Geneva
fax: 41-22-917-0123

Fax copies to

Alvaro De Soto, Special Assistant to the Secretary General in New York
fax: 1-212-963-4879

If we cannot prevent the seminar, every government and expert who attends must be urged to condemn the human rights situation in East Timor and in Indonesia, and to distribute the report of the Special Rapporteur on Torture, the latest UN Human Rights Subcommission report on East Timor and information from Asia Watch and Amnesty International.

Thank you for your quick and energetic response. Time is of the essence.